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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twelfth Meeting of the Technical
Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
29 April - 7 May 1991

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

The formal opening of the twelfth meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole will take place at Africa Hall of the Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, on Monday 29 April 1991 at 11.00 a.m.

2. Election of officers (agenda item 2)

In accordance with rules 14 and 15 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole will elect from among the representatives of member States, a Chairman, a first Vice-Chairman, a second Vice-Chairman and a Rapporteur. The outgoing officers of the Committee will remain in office until the election of their successors. They are eligible for re-election.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (agenda item 3)

In accordance with rule 9 of the Commission's rules of procedure, the meeting will adopt its agenda and establish the procedure for the conduct of its business (document E/ECA/TPCW.12/1).

PART I: Preliminary review of Africa's economic and social Performance in 1990 and prospects for 1991 (agenda item 4)

4.1 Economic Report on Africa 1991

The Committee will consider the Economic Report on Africa 1991 presented by the ECA secretariat. The report reviews the main socio-economic trends in the African region in 1990 and provides an outlook for 1991. It will be the eighth Annual Economic Report on Africa, and it is presented with the objective of providing on an annual basis an account of the state of the African economy, an analysis of recent economic performance and summary forecasts of the future (document E/ECA/CM.17/2).

4.2 The Gulf crisis and the African economies

The Committee will be apprised of the impact of the Gulf crisis on the non-oil exporting African countries, given their fragile economies, their heavy debt-and debt servicing burden and their low income from exported commodities. The Committee may thus wish to take special measures that might prevent further deterioration of these economies.

PART II: Transformation, Recovery and Adjustment

5.1 Lagos Plan of Action: Ten years after (agenda item 5.1)

The Lagos Plan of Action was adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at Lagos, Nigeria, in April 1980. Under this agenda item, the Committee will critically review and assess the progress of the Plan of Action and the Final Act after the first ten years, and consider the opportunities open to the African region during the next ten years. The 1990s which constitute a crucial decade, as the geo-political picture is redrawn and redesigned in the form of major regional blocks and groupings. The Committee will further consider the role of the Commission in this process (document E/ECA/CM.17/3).

5.2 United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) (agenda item 5.2)

(a) The Committee will be apprised of the General Assembly's adoption of recommendations made by the Conference under resolution 698 (XXV), entitled "the Final review and appraisal of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD)", namely that an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly should be established to carry out the final review and appraisal of UN-PAAERD. The Committee will also consider a draft Special

Memorandum on the Final Review and Appraisal of UN-PAAERD, prepared by the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting in accordance with resolution 698 (XXV), and may wish to forward recommendations for its adoption by ECOSOC and the General Assembly. In addition, a note proposing successor arrangements to UN-PAAERD will be put before the Committee for its consideration. The decision by the Committee and the Conference thereon will be conveyed to the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the General Assembly on the review and implementation of UN-PAAERD (documents E/ECA/CM.17/4 and E/ECA/CM.17/5).

5.3 Beyond Recovery and Towards Transformation: African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) (agenda item 5.3)

(a) Under this agenda item, the Committee will review progress and implementation of activities in connection with the operationalization of AAF-SAP since the last meeting of the Conference of Ministers (document E/ECA/CM.17/6).

(b) The Committee will also review development planning practices and techniques with a view to integrating short-, medium- and long-term considerations into structural change and socio-economic transformation in African countries (document E/ECA/CM.17/7).

(c) Following the adoption of resolution 691 (XXV), entitled "the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation", by the ECA Conference and later by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU at its twenty-sixth session, the Commission has been undertaking a number of activities in implementation and monitoring of the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation. The Committee will be provided with a report on these activities for its consideration (document E/ECA/CM.17/8).

(d) Under this agenda item the Committee will attempt to assess the impact of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) on various population growth components in the region. Based on this assessment the Committee may wish to propose population-related remedial strategies for incorporation into the AAF-SAP framework (document E/ECA/CM.17/9).

PART III. Issues, studies and reports on regional co-operation for development in Africa (agenda item 6)

(a) At its last meeting, the Conference had considered the Report of the Evaluation Mission to Review the Achievements of the MULPOCs with a view to strengthening them and making them more effective (E/ECA/CM/16/13). The Conference endorsed the Report and forwarded it with comments to the Secretary-General for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. The Committee will be informed of the decision of the General Assembly on the report, and will consider necessary future action (E/ECA/CM.17/16).

(b) Under this agenda item, the Committee will also be briefed on progress in the establishment of the African Economic Community (document E/ECA/CM.17/11).

(c) Industrial development in Africa - The Committee will review the progress made in the preparatory process of the United Nations Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa. The review will include information on the preparation of the country and subregional programmes as well as issues related to the process of adoption of the programme, possible modalities of implementation and ECA's monitoring role. Since the Commission's subsidiary organ of the Conference of Ministers of Industry that will finally adopt the programme will only meet in June, the ECA Conference of Ministers may wish to make specific requests and give specific mandates to its subsidiary organ with regard to the adoption of the programme and its submission to ECOSOC. The ECA Conference of Ministers should also define the role of ECA in the monitoring of IDDA-2 (document E/ECA/CM.17/12).

(d) Transport and Communication in Africa - An outline of the initial programme of the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) as recommended by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, as well as other recommendations on such relevant issues as reactivation of the Trans-African Highway Bureau, will be put before the Committee for consideration and action (document E/ECA/CM.17/13).

(e) Natural resources and environment in Africa

(i) Under this agenda item, the Committee will review and appraise the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (MPAP), including the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in Africa (1981-1990). The Committee may wish to give guidelines for sectoral activities in the 1990s and beyond (document E/ECA/CM.17/14).

(ii) The implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/228 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which will be held in Brazil in June 1992, includes the holding of regional preparatory conference to highlight regional variations in global environmental problems. The deliberations at these conferences should result in concrete programmes which will be discussed at the main conference in 1992. ECA, in collaboration with the other agencies of the UN system, is organizing Africa's preparatory process which includes the regional conference, during which the Kampala Agenda of Action for Sustainable Development in Africa was the focus of discussions. Concrete programme recommendations for action were made. These will further be discussed by various relevant intergovernmental bodies and the OAU after which they will constitute Africa's submission to UNCED in Brazil. The Committee may wish to make its inputs into these recommendations (document E/ECA/CM.17/15).

(f) Social development and humanitarian affairs

(i) At its thirteenth meeting, the Conference directed that a report on the African social situation should be provided to it every two years. Under this agenda item, the Committee will consider the state of social development in Africa in the 1980s, focusing particularly on the sharp deterioration in practically all facets of Africa's social sector, thereby causing human suffering and misery on unprecedented scale as evidenced by, inter alia, decelerating health and nutrition, education, employment and food security. The Committee will then examine the policy challenges for the 1990s and may wish to recommend modalities for policy implementation targeted for the social sector institutions (document E/ECA/CM.17/15).

(ii) Within the context of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and in anticipation of the World Conference on Women in 1995, which will assess the implementation of the Nairobi Strategies, the Committee will focus on women's participation in the industrialization process and the agro-industries. In particular it will consider their involvement in the semi-skilled and casual labour and labour-intensive activities, their relative absence from industrial ownership, and their low participation in technical or

management categories. In this respect, the Committee may wish to make recommendations on:

1. how the skills and energies of women can best be integrated into the industrialization process in both large and small-scale enterprises;

2. improvement of employment opportunities for women;

3. provision of technical training and marketing infrastructure (document E/ECA.CM.17/17).

(g) Operational activities - The Committee will be apprised of the status of the technical co-operation projects executed by the ECA secretariat during the year 1990 (document E/ECA/CM.17/18). In addition, the ECA position on such ongoing policy issues as the modalities of implementation of the General Assembly resolution 44/211, the assessment of the UNDP Fourth Cycle, the preparation of the Fifth Cycle as well as successor arrangements to programme support costs will be presented to the Committee for consideration (document E/ECA/CM.17/19).

PART IV: Issues from subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission calling for action by the Conference of Ministers (agenda item 7)

Under this agenda item the Committee will review the recommendations, resolutions and decisions taken by the subsidiary organs and sectoral bodies of the Commission that have held meetings since the last session of the Commission (document E/ECA/CM.17/20).

PART V: Statutory issues (agenda item 8)

The Committee will be apprised of the various actions that have been taken by the secretariat in the implementation of the resolutions and decisions adopted at the twenty-fifth session of the Commission, and of various resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. These include those recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council at its third regular session in 1990, and other resolutions and decisions from the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly which are of interest to Africa (document E/ECA/CM.17/21 and E/ECA/CM.17/22).

9. Staff and administrative questions (agenda item 9)

In accordance with the Conference of Ministers resolution 242 (XI) of 23 February 1973, entitled "Reporting on staff and administrative questions", the Committee will consider a biennial report on issues of general administration and personnel matters of interest to the member States. The staffing structure and policy guidelines of the United Nations Secretariat will also be clarified (document E/ECA/CM.17/23).

PART VI: Programme of work and priorities of the Commission (agenda item 10)

(a) The Committee will review secretariat performance in implementing the work programme during the first year of the 1990-1991 biennium and may wish to make appropriate recommendations thereon (document E/ECA/CM.17/24).

(b) Under this agenda item the Committee will consider the proposed programme of work, 1992-1993, which will be the first to be elaborated on the basis of the Medium-term Plan 1992-1997 (document E/ECA/CM.17/24).

(c) ECA Regional Advisory Services - The regional dimensions of development have received less than their full recognition in the recent initiations taken by the United Nations with regard to operational activities, such as those of the POPIN-Africa project which faces demise, and substitution by a non-regional project that cannot fulfil the same role of indigenous capacity-building. The Committee will be informed of measures being taken to reassess this situation. In this regard, information will be provided regarding the establishment of the ECA Multidisciplinary Regional Advisory Group (ECA-MRAG). The group is entrusted with putting into operation various major policy objectives of the Commission. The Committee may wish to comment on this reorganization of the Regional Advisory Services, and may further wish to consider what related future actions should be taken to re-establish the role of the regional commissions in economic and social development (documents E/ECA/CM.17/26 and E/ECA/CM.17/27).

PART VII: Pledging Conference for the United Nations Trust Fund for African Development (UNTFAD) (agenda item 11)

In accordance with the Conference requirement that the Executive Secretary organize a pledging conference every two years, the Committee will be given an account of UNTFAD resources mobilization and utilization for the implementation of ECA work programme in 1990-1991, and of the proposals for the biennium 1992-1993. Under this agenda item the Committee will also be appraised of other ECA activities that are financed through extrabudgetary funds (documents E/ECA/CM.17/27 and E/ECA/CM.17/28).